

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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SAB-01 /112 W

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R 031407Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5770

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 10418

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG XF LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 3 CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 10351

SUMMARY. LIGHT COVERAGE OF MILITARY SITUATION REPORTS SYRIAN
OPERATIONS IN SIDON. "SECRET PROVISIONS" OF SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN
AGREEMENT REPORTED ALONG WITH CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT AMONG
RIGHTISTS, LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS. CAIRO RADIO EXPECTS
SIGNATURE AUG.5. ARAB LEAGUE'S AL-KHULI
SYAS TAL ZA'TAR EVACUATION COULD BEGIN AUGUST 4. COMMENTARY
ON SYRIA AND CHRISITANS LESS EXTENSIVE BUT STILL BITTER. END
SUMMARY.

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1. MILITARY. AHRAH AND GUMHURIYYA FEATURE REPORTS ON THE SYRIAN OFFENSIVES AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN SIDON AND RIGHTIST POUNDING OF TAL ZAT'AR . PALESTINIAN SOURCES CITED AS SAYING SYRIANS MASSING HUGE FORCES FOR HEAVY ATTACKS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. PRESS CARRIES KUWAITI AL-SIYASA STORY CLAIMING "PALESTINIAN SOURCES" CALL AGREEMENT "SURRENDER DOCUMENT" BECAUSE IT PROVIDES FOR DEFINITIVE EVACUATION OF PALESTINIANS TO "FUTURE PALESTINIAN ENTITY." IN THIS STORY, DAMASCUS LEAK SOURCED FOR REPORT THAT AGREEMENT INCLUDED TEN SECRET ARTICLES, CHIEF OF WHICH WERE SARG CABINET RESHUFFLE AND REDUCTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES. CABINET RESHUFFLE SAID TO MEAN POSSIBLE OUSTER OF FONMIN KHADDAM AND DEFMIN TLAS. FURTHER PROVISIONS INCLUDE REOPENING OF SA'IQA AND FATAH OFFICES IN DAMASCUS AND POSSIBLE ARAFAT INVITATION TO DAMASCUS FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES. AGREEMENT TO BE EXECUTED WAS TO MAXIMIZE IMPRESSION THAT SYRIANS ACTING ON OWN INITIATIVE.

3. NEW CEASE-FIRE. PRESS ALSO FEATURES LEBANESE AL-ANWAR REPORT OF NEW DRAFT CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. STORY BASED ON AL-KHULI AND GENERAL GHUNAYM COMMENTS FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF RIGHTISTS, LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS. AGREEMENT SAID TO CONTAIN SEVEN MAIN ARTICLES PROVIDING FOR GENERAL CEASE-FIRE AS OF 0200 AUGUST 4, END TO ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS, KIDNAPPING AND PROPAGANDA, AND SUPERVISION OF CEASE-FIRE IN BEIRUT OF ARAB SECURITY FORCE. ACCORDING UPI REPORT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, AL-KHULI SAID CHAMOUN HAS SIGNED AGREEMENT AND ICRC EVACUATION OF TAL ZAT'AR WILL BEGIN AUGUST 4 IF CEASE-FIRE OBSERVED. AL-KHULI ALSO REPORTED AS DESCRIBING EVACUATION AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING SYRIAN-PLO AGREEMENT.

4. CAIRO RADIO AT 1330 LOCAL ANNOUNCED THAT ACCORDING TO REPORT SENT BY GENERAL GHUNAYM TO ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT, "THE LEBANESE PARTIES" HAVE AGREED TO CASE-FIRE AND TO ASF SUPERVISION "OVER ALL ARESA." SIGNATURE OF CASE-FIRE AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY WILL OCCUR AUGUST 4 WITH IMPLEMENTATION TO BEGIN AT 0800 AUGUST 5.

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5. ARAB LEAGUE HAS AGAIN ASKED FOR REINFORCEMENT OF ASF FROM 3000 TO 6000 TROOPS. BAHRAIN, MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO DEMURRED WHILE SAUDI ARABIA PROMISED TO INCREASE SIZE OF ITS CONTINGENT.

6. SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS. EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, WITH SHAKY GEOGRAPHY, ELABORATED FURTHER ON PARTITION PLAN CLAIMED

ARRIVED AT IN GOE-SARG CONTACTS (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO "SOURCES AT THE SECURITY AGENCY OF THE PALESTINIANS REVOLUTION," PLAN CALLED FOR SYRIA TO RECEIVE BAQAA AREA, "EMBRACING TRIPOLI, ACRE PALIN, BAALBEK AND SHTURA." ISRAEL TO KEEP GOLAN HEIGHTS, "WHICH SYRIAN BA'ATH HANDED OVER TO ISRAEL IN 1967," AND GAIN SOUTHERN LEBANON UP TO LITANI RIVER. PHALANGISTS WOULD BE GIVEN AREA OF KARWAN (SIC), ZGHORTA AND BEIRUT TO CREATE MARONITE STATE. SAME PALESTINIAN SOURCES "REVEALED" THAT PLAN HAD "BLESSING" OF USG AND SOVIET UNION.

7. SYRIANS-RIGHTISTS CUDGELED. EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF SYRIA AND RIGHTISTS LESS EXTENSIVE BUT BITTER. AHRAH CHAIRMAN HAMDI GAMAL COLUMN AGAIN BLASTS SYRIAN-CHRISTIAN COOPERATION. CLAIMS THAT FRANJIYA ASKED FOR SYRIAN INTERVENTION ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND SUGGESTS SYRIAN RESPONSE TO FRANJIYA-CHAMOUN-ISRAEL PLOT AIMED ONLY AT LIQUIDATION OF PLO. AHMAD ZAYN, AKHBAR CHIEF EDITOR, LASHES OUT AT HAFIZ AND RIF'AT ASAD FOR "SERVING ISRAELI INTERESTS." ONLY OTHER SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF DAMASCUS CAME IN AKHBAR EDITORIAL BLAMING ZIONIST-ISOLATIONIST SCHEMING WITH SYRIA AND JORDAN AGAINST PLO FOR LEBANESE CRISIS. ACCUSED SYRIAN-ISOLATIONIST ALLIANCE OF MASSACRES WITH BLESSING, SUPPORT AND FULL AGREEMENT OF ISRAEL. DENOUNCES HYPOCRISIES AND LIES OF SYRIAN LEADERSHIP AND BA'ATH PARTY.
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